

deeply separated from each other (Fig. 1). After a period of fifteen to twenty years heartwood is formed which is without protection from wood-destroying fungi on account of the deeply intruding channels of dead tissues running lengthwise through the base of the small dead primary branches. When the heartwood decays completely three or four separate living trunks are thus formed from the single original shoot (Fig. 2).

Commonly there is more or less torsion of the shoot, with more or less displacement of the branches in the decussate arrangement. As a consequence the channels formed overlap and produce much irregularity or complexity in the development of the stem and of the separating longitudinal roundish strands (Fig. 1).

Usually it is only in quite old individuals that the full history of the stem proceeds as just described, but successive stages of the growth on the way to complete fission by decay of central dead tissues may be observed in the case of any individual that is mature or past maturity. In other portions of the range of the species—in the Coast Ranges and elsewhere—the initiation of the tendency to separation of the strands of woods is equally marked but is likely to be only partial in development.

Berkeley, Sept. 5, 1921.

CALIFORNIA PARK COMMISSION

The last legislature of California (1927) passed a bill authorizing a Park Commission; the bill was approved by Governor Young and is now law. The Governor has recently appointed the members of the Commission, consisting of Mr. W. E. Colby, Sierra Club, San Francisco; President R. L. Wilbur, Stanford University; ex-senator W. F. Chandler, Fresno; Judge Henry O'Melveny, Los Angeles; and Major F. R. Burnham, Los Angeles. The actual administration of all parks and monuments will be under the Division of Parks, State Department of Natural Resources, but will be guided by the policies as laid down by the Park Commission. All California state parks have an interest to botanists from the standpoint of conservation of wild life, or as sanctuaries for rare species. Any movement which has for its object the reservation of wild land in any part of the state should have the active support of members of our Society.—W. L. JEPSON.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A new periodical, entitled "Contributions from the Dudley Herbarium of Stanford University," is being issued under the direction of Dr. LeRoy Abrams. No. 1 contains "A Distributional Catalogue of the Lupines of Oregon" by Charles Piper Smith and No. 2, "Preliminary Report on the Flora of the Tres Marias Islands" by Roxana Ferris.